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SOURCE Medycyna Weterynaryjna, Vol VI, No 10, 1950.

VETERINARIES PREPARE FOR FIRST POLISH SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

For the past few months, veterinary doctors have been intensively preparing for the coming First Polish Scientific Congress.

The following have been appointed members of the veterinary clinical science group: Prof-Dr Stanislaw Runge (chairman), Prof-Dr Zygmunt Markowski, Prof-Dr Kazimierz Szczudlowski, Prof-Dr Jozef Kulczycki, Prof-Dr Michal Gedroyc, Asst Prof-Dr Zdzislaw Finik, and Doctors Adam Szwabowicz, Stanislaw Masztalerz, Marian Wislocki, Stanislaw Spiewak, Adolf Zdrojewski, and Stefan Gruszecki.

Dr Zygmunt Markowski, senior professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University and the Polytechnic in Wroclaw, is one of the old-timers still active in this type work.

Through the efforts of the old-time veterinary doctors, Polish veterinary medicine was established on a good level, and during the period from the end of World War I, when Poland gained her independence, to the start of World War II, veterinary schools and sciences were expanded further. During this period, efforts were concentrated mainly on organizational and scientific work in schools and a few scientific centers; however, this work did not expand to proportions capable of meeting the needs of a new nation arising from 100 years of slavery and war destruction. This was due to the meager endowment of these scientific centers, particularly in the field of therapeutics. The slowest branch of veterinary science to expand was veterinary clinical science, particularly therapeutics. The main cause of this slow expansion in therapeutics was not only the shortage of veterinary doctors, most of whom were employed in administration, but also the lack of opportunity for field work. Another reason was the inadequate cooperation of veterinary clinicians among themselves and with animal breeders. Cooperation was limited mainly to consultations on specific cases without joint planning for cooperation for the prevention and treatment of diseases. Above all, there was insufficient supervision over the over-all veterinary therapy program by the state, and there was no direct permanent contact between scientists and clinical practitioners on the one hand, and farmers on the other.

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With the rise of People's Poland and socialized farming after World War II, the veterinaries were not adequately prepared to meet the changed needs of socialized village life. The marked shortage of veterinary doctors, schools, and clinical centers then came to light.

Realizing the importance of veterinary therapy, Poland, while still in ruins, activated veterinary faculties in three universities, and expanded the activities of the PIW (Panstwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny, State Veterinary Institute) and the PLW (Panstwowe Lecznice Weterynaryjne, State Veterinary Hospitals) in 1945, despite the shortage of professors, space, buildings, equipment, and educational aids. Today there are over 100 PLW; under the Six-Year Plan, the number will be increased to 125.

Poland at present has veterinary clinics for internal diseases, surgery, and delivery at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University and the Polytechnic in Wroclaw. There are three similar clinics at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Warsaw, and three at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

Ophthalmology has been added to the surgical clinic at Warsaw, and the surgical clinic at Wroclaw has added both ophthalmology and veterinary orthopedics. The delivery clinics in Warsaw, Wroclaw, and Lublin are not functioning fully because of the lack of space and the lack of professors to fill these positions. In Wroclaw, the director of the clinic for internal diseases is also the director of the Research Center on Epizootiology.

At Poznan University, there is a Livestock Veterinary Research Center. Three pharmacology laboratories at the veterinary faculties in Warsaw, Wroclaw, and Lublin have been included in the veterinary clinical science group for the First Polish Scientific Congress. The pharmacological laboratory at Warsaw is headed by a professor, the one in Lublin by an assistant professor, and the one in Wroclaw by an associate professor. Six professors, three assistant professors, and three docents have charge of the ten above-mentioned research laboratories and clinics. The total number of associate professors and permanent assistants does not exceed 40.

Information gathered from field trips and from reports sent in by the directors of the above-mentioned institutes disclosed that:

1. There was an alarming shortage of clinical buildings, equipment, apparatus, and educational aids.
2. The number of auxiliary scientific personnel was too low in comparison with the number of students attending.
3. Professors and auxiliary scientific personnel were greatly overburdened with pedagogical, didactic, and administrative work, and services to outside administrative, legal, and other agencies.
4. From 1945 to May 1950, the above-mentioned research laboratories and clinics issued over 60 important scientific and experimental dissertations, including nine doctors' dissertations, three teachers' qualifying dissertations, and three textbooks. These centers are now working on several score dissertations covering clinical problems; however, only four centers have a well-defined research program.
5. A relatively large number of dissertations were not printed because of printing difficulties. The greater part of the dissertations were published in the scientific periodical Medycyna Weterynaryjna, which is rated highly in the veterinary scientific field. Only a small number of dissertations were published in formal publications of scientific societies of the Polish Academy of Science,

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the PTPN (Polskie Towarzystwo Pracownikow Naukowych, Polish Society of Scientific Workers), and others. The publishing of scientific dissertations, particularly the more extensive ones, is, on the whole, difficult, especially since such work is now not accepted by Medycyna Weterynaryjna, and printing in other publications takes months and, in some cases, even years. An exception is the well-organized periodical Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Sklodowska in Lublin, which publishes this type of work in a separate section entitled "Sectio DD--Medicina veterinaria."

In discussions at meetings, some clinicians pointed out that clinical studies are difficult to plan because of random factors and the wide range of subjects. Clinical studies are conditioned by chance developments, and are related to specific cases rather than general problems. General problems can be solved by clinicians only in cooperation with bacteriologists, epizootiologists, physiologists, anatomists, and pathologists. One of the participants in this meeting mentioned the lack of appreciation of this type of close cooperation between clinicians and other specialists, as evidenced by the fact that there is no anatomical and pathological group in the veterinary subsection of the congress.

Unusually valuable observations and suggestions pertaining to the organization and planning of veterinary clinical research were given by practicing clinicians as follows:

1. Clinical positions in veterinary schools should be occupied as far as possible by veterinary doctors with the support of a full auxiliary staff both for research in laboratories and for practical clinical training of veterinary students.
2. The curriculum of clinical subjects should be most scrupulously worked out for balanced theoretical and practical training.
3. Specialization should be introduced in clinics.
4. Clinical research centers should be set up in the field, and practicing veterinarians should have an opportunity to continue their studies.
5. The planning of locations and the construction of therapeutic hospitals for animals should not rest exclusively in the hands of administrative officials; scientists should be consulted.
6. Some selected veterinary hospitals could become extensions of veterinary faculties in universities, with topics of research worked out under the direction of professors. This would offer proper training for the student, graduate, and junior veterinary doctor specializing in veterinary clinical science.
7. Since present diagnosis and study of animals, especially the alimentary tract, is antiquated, it should be modernized. The veterinary instrument room in clinics should be modernized, and modern methods of treating animals with antibiotics should be worked out.

At the last meeting of the veterinary clinical science group on 29 June 1950, it was agreed that the following problems are to be stressed in the Six-Year Plan:

1. The influence of environment on diseases in animals, with the development of research methods based on the latest diagnostics, modern surgical methods, and internal medical therapy.
2. The development of new therapeutic methods based on domestic raw products and Soviet science.

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3. Cooperation with bacteriologists and epidemiologists on the development of methods to control diseases with the greatest economic significance, particularly tuberculosis, brucellosis, infectious anemia, sterility, and bovine mastitis with attention to autogenous and exogenous factors, geographical location, and seasonal trends.

4. Cooperation with parasitologists on the method of combating parasitic diseases, with the extermination of parasites in Poland.

5. Anatomical and pathological research on the above-mentioned problems.

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